LISTING OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5   1.   (Currently Amended) A method for launching remote test applications in a distributed test framework, comprising the operation of:

using a first agent process having an agent launcher interface to launch launching a first test application program having a call interface using a first agent process having an agent launcher interface, wherein the call interface provides a reference to the first

10   agent process such that the first test application program and the first agent process communicate communicates with each other during execution of the first test application;

sending a launch request from the first test application to the agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent process as provided by the call interface of the first test application, wherein the launch request

15   specifies a second test application to be launched, and wherein the launch request defines required attributes of [[a]] an unidentified processing resource necessary to execute the second test application thereon; and

operating the agent launcher to send a request to a system controller requesting identification of a processing resource having the required attributes necessary to execute

20   the second test application;

operating the system controller to identify the processing resource having the required attributes necessary to execute the second test application; and

launching the second test application on the identified [[a]] processing resource having the attributes defined in the launch request.

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2.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second

test application is launched by a second agent process executing on the identified

processing resource.

5   3.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second

agent process is registered with a look up service, the registering being configured to

advertise the attributes of the identified processing resource to the system controller via

the look up service.

10   4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3 [[4]], wherein the

system controller is configured to search the look up service to locate a processing

resource having attributes substantially matching the attributes defined in the launch

15   request.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the second

test application includes a second call interface, and the second call interface further

includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization initial values for the second

20   test application.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the agent

launcher interface of the first agent process further includes initial parameters that

provide initialization initial values for the second test application.

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8.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the

initialization ~~initial~~ values provided by the ~~initial~~ parameters of the agent launcher

interface of the first agent process can be passed to the second call interface via the

parameters hash table of the second call interface of the second <u>test</u> application.

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9.   (Currently Amended) A system for launching remote <u>test</u> applications in a

distributed test framework, comprising:

a first agent process executing on a first processing resource, wherein the first

agent process includes an agent launcher interface; and

10   a first <u>test</u> application ~~program~~ having a call interface that provides a reference to

the first agent process such that the first <u>test</u> application ~~program~~ and the first agent

process <u>communicate</u> ~~communicates~~ with each other during execution <u>of the first test</u>

<u>application</u>, wherein the first <u>test</u> application is capable of sending a launch request to the

agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent

15   process, the launch request specifying a second <u>test</u> application to be launched and

defining <u>required</u> attributes of a second processing resource <u>without specifically</u>

<u>identifying the second processing resource</u>.

10-12. (Cancelled)

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13.   (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim <u>9</u> [[12]], further

comprising:

a system controller in communication with the first agent process<u>, the system</u>

<u>controller defined to receive a processing resource identification request from the agent</u>

25   <u>launcher interface of the first agent process, the system controller further defined to</u>

search a look up service to identify a processing resource having the required attributes

defined in the launch request ~~and the second agent process~~.

14.   (Cancelled)

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15.   (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 13 [~~14~~], wherein the

second test application includes a second call interface, and the second call interface

further includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization ~~initial~~ values for the

second test application.

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16.   (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the agent

launcher interface of the first agent process further includes ~~initial~~ parameters that

provide initialization ~~initial~~ values for the second test application, wherein the

initialization ~~initial~~ values ~~provided by the initial parameters of the agent launcher~~

15   ~~interface of the first agent process~~ can be passed to the second call interface via the

parameters hash table of the second call interface.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer

readable medium for launching remote test applications in a distributed test framework,

20   comprising:

a code segment that receives a reference to a first agent process, wherein the

reference can be utilized to access the first agent process during execution;

a code segment that receives initialization parameters for a test ~~an~~ application,

wherein the initialization parameters can be used to set initial values for specific

25   parameters of the test application; and

a code segment that calls an agent launcher interface of the agent process using the reference, wherein a request to launch a second _test_ application is sent to the agent launcher interface, and wherein <u>required</u> attributes of <u>an unidentified</u> [[a]] processing resource <u>necessary to execute the second test application</u> are passed to the agent launcher

5   process.

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the <u>required</u> attributes are utilized to select a processing resource having substantially matching attributes to execute the second <u>test</u> application.

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19.   (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein the <u>selected</u> processing resource is selected from a list of processing resources advertised on a look up service.

15   20.   (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 19, wherein the selected processing resource includes a second agent process, and wherein the second agent process launches the second <u>test</u> application.

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